

Message Text

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PAGE 01 THESSA 00757 301511Z

45/11

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 DRC-01 SIL-01 LAB-06

/132 W

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R 300930Z NOV 73

FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1743

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

UNCLAS THESSALONIKI 0757

C O R R E C T E D COPY (FOR TEXT PARA 1 LINE 8 PARA 3 AUGUST
1971 VICE 1972)

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PGOV, GR

SUBJECT: PRESSURE TO REESTABLISH MINISTRY FOR NORTHERN GREECE

REF: THESSALONIKI 0750

1. "MAKEDONIA" OF NOVEMBER 30 CARRIES BRIEF
FRONTPAGE REPORT ON GROWING LOBBY HERE FOR RESTORATION
OF MINISTRY OF NORTHERN GREECE. REPRESENTATIVES
OF LOCAL TRADE AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, LABOR
UNIONS, AND OTHER GROUPS MET NOV 29 TO "COORDINATE
EFFORTS TO EMPHASIZE NEED FOR RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF
ABOLISHED MINISTRY". GROUPS PLAN TO POINT OUT TO
NEW GOVERNMENT "SPECIAL MISSION OF NORTHERN GREEK MINISTRY
AND ITS ESSENTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO ECONOMIC,
SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF MACEDONIA AND
THRACE".

2. "ELLINIKOS VORRAS" ALSO CARRIES STRONG EDITORIAL
BY ELIAS KYROU ON NEED FOR LOCAL EXCEPTION TO
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NOV 28 DECISION TO ABOLISH DISTRICT GOVERNMENTS.

KYROU WRITES THAT GREECE IS "BI-POLAR" NATION IN WHICH THESSALONIKI IS "MOST ESSENTIAL" POLE. PAST GOVERNORS OF NORTHERN GREECE, HE CLAIMS, HAVE FREQUENTLY "BEEN WORTH TWO OR THREE PRIME MINISTERS". EDITORIAL ASCRIBES FAILURE OF PM ANDROUTSOPOULOS TO ANNOUNCE EXCEPTION FOR DISTRICT GOVERNMENT HERE AS "INADVERTENT". THESSALONIKI IS CENTER OF MACEDONIA AND THRACE, NATURAL PORT FOR BALKANS, AND INTERNATIONAL CROSSROADS AND, THEREFORE, REQUIRES "ESSENTIAL AND IMPRESSIVE PRESENCE OF GREEK GOVERNMENT". IMMEDIATE AND URGENT PROBLEMS OF BORDER AREA MUST BE STUDIED AND SOLVED ON SPOT WITH APPROVAL FROM ATHENS.

3. COMMENT: OFFICE OF GOVERNOR GENERAL FOR MACEDONIA AND THRACE EXISTED FROM INDEPENDENCE IN 1912 UNTIL 1952 WHEN SEPARATE MINISTRY FOR NORTHERN GREECE ESTABLISHED. LATTER TRANSFORMED INTO DISTRICT GOVERNMENT HEADED BY UNDER SECRETARY, ACCORDING TO DECENTRALIZATION PLAN OF AUGUST 1971.

JACKSON

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